

# NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

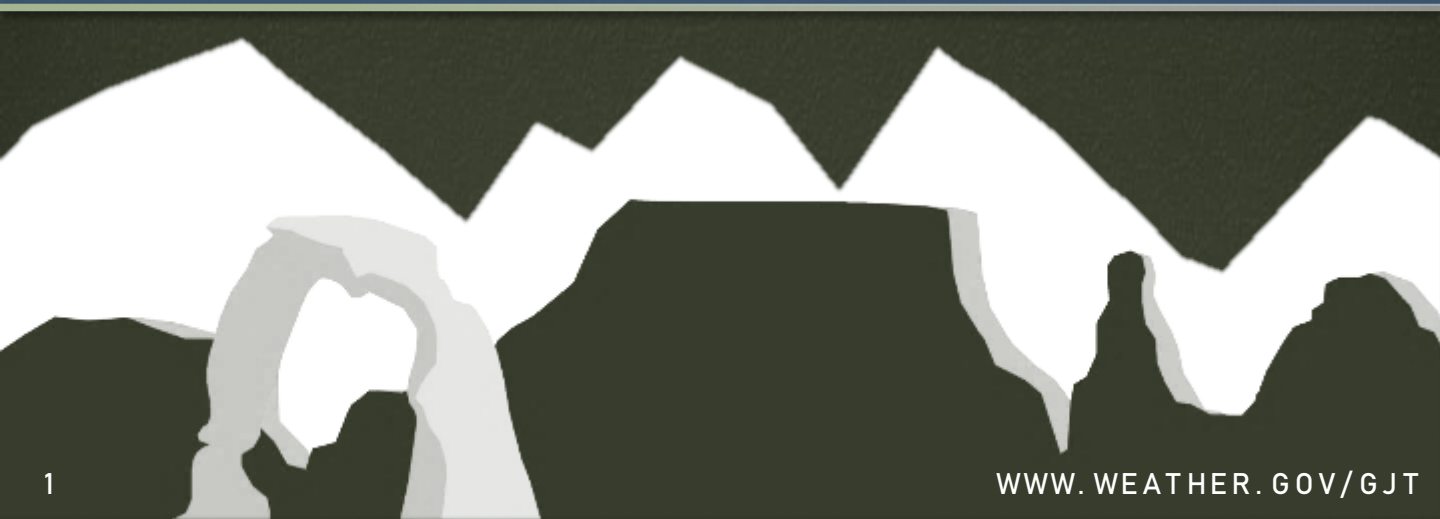


A LOOK  
BACK AT

## JANUARY 2023

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

January picked up where December left off – with round after round of wintry weather. However, a break did finally present itself at the end of the first week, along with some above normal temperatures and sunshine. That didn't last for long though, as clouds and unsettled weather returned yet again. This continual onslaught of snowfall did good things for the mountain snowpacks, which began the month above normal and only continued to climb. It also trapped favored valley locations, such as the Uinta Basin and the Gunnison Basin, in strong valley inversions that kept temperatures bitterly cold throughout the month, reinforced by shots of cold arctic air behind each storm. The month ended on a very cold note. Skies rapidly cleared on the back side of a winter storm, which, when combined with the deep Arctic air filtering in and the fresh snowfall across locations north of I-70, allowed the temperatures to go into freefall. The coldest spot in eastern Utah and western Colorado on the morning of Tuesday, January 31, was Maybell, CO, with a low temperature of -44F. Craig hit -42F, and Meeker got down to -31F. This bitterly cold air stuck around in these areas too, with temperatures for the first few days of February not even breaking 0F.



# JANUARY 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



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*NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas February have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.*

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# STORY OF THE MONTH **LATE MONTH COLD SHOT**

*Overnight from January 30<sup>th</sup> to the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup>, the cold air dropping in behind a storm combined with fresh snowfall and rapidly clearing skies to bring some of the coldest temperatures of the season to the region. The coldest temperature recorded across northeast Utah and northwest Colorado that morning was -44F in Maybell, CO. Below is a list of other truly chilly spots across the area that morning, and the previous records that were broken.*

## Tuesday Morning Low Temperatures

Location	Tuesday Low Temperatures	Record Low
Craig	-42F	-26F (2002)
Cortez	16F	-5F (2001)
Durango	12F	-19F (2008)
Eagle	-6F	-32F (1951)
Grand Junction	9F	-10F (1979)
Gunnison	8F	-32F (1969) - COOP
Hayden	-22F	-29F (1985) - COOP
Meeker	-31F	-20F (2002) - COOP
Moab	19F	4F (2002)
Montrose	9F	-10F (2002)
Rangely	-19F	-30F (1979)
Rifle	-8F	-12F (2008)
Steamboat Springs	-22F	-34F (1979) - COOP
Telluride	14F	-26F (1994) - COOP
Vernal	-18F	-9F (2008)

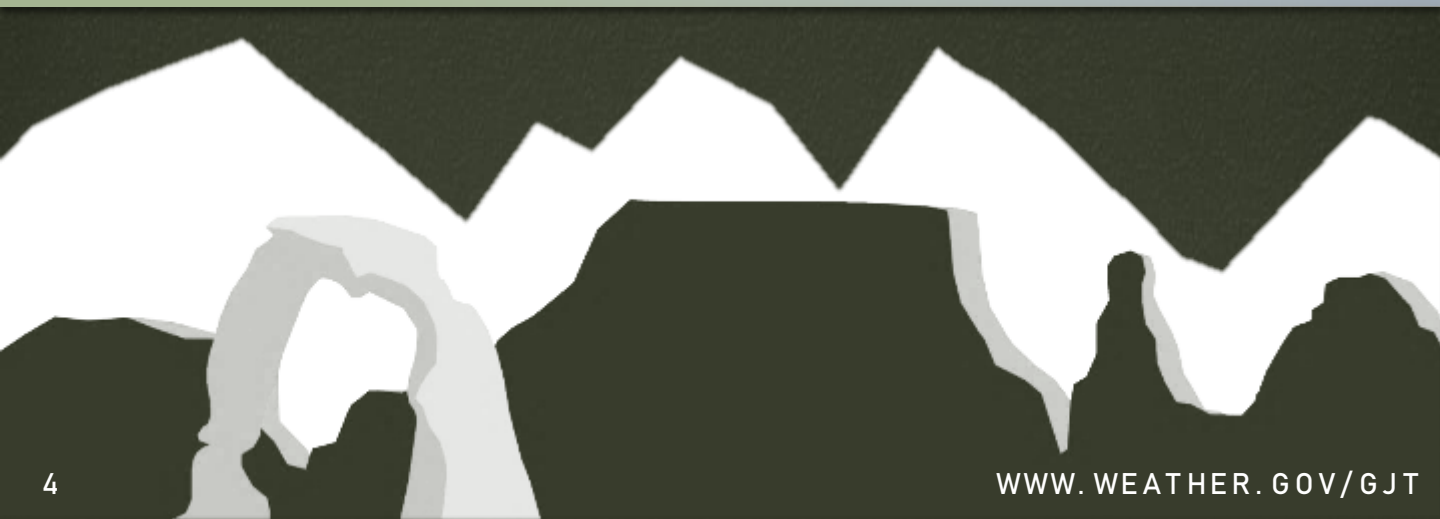


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# TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	20.3 <b>(-1.4)</b>	46 on 1/14	-9 on 1/31
Cortez, CO	27.4 <b>(-0.3)</b>	53 on 1/10	-4 on 1/19
Craig, CO	15.8 <b>(-1.0)</b>	43 on 1/1	-41 on 1/31
Durango, CO	21.1 <b>(-2.6)</b>	44 on 1/10	-14 on 1/26
Grand Junction, CO	32.7 <b>(+5.0)</b>	52 on 1/10	8 on 1/31
Meeker, CO	18.0 <b>(-2.9)</b>	44 on 1/14	-31 on 1/31
Montrose, CO	30.2 <b>(+3.0)</b>	52 on 1/10	4 on 1/31
Rifle, CO	26.0 <b>(+0.9)</b>	45 on 1/11	-8 on 1/31
Canyonlands Airport, UT	30.5 <b>(+2.5)</b>	56 on 1/10	3 on 1/19
Vernal, UT	11.7 <b>(-8.0)</b>	35 on 1/11	-20 on 1/31



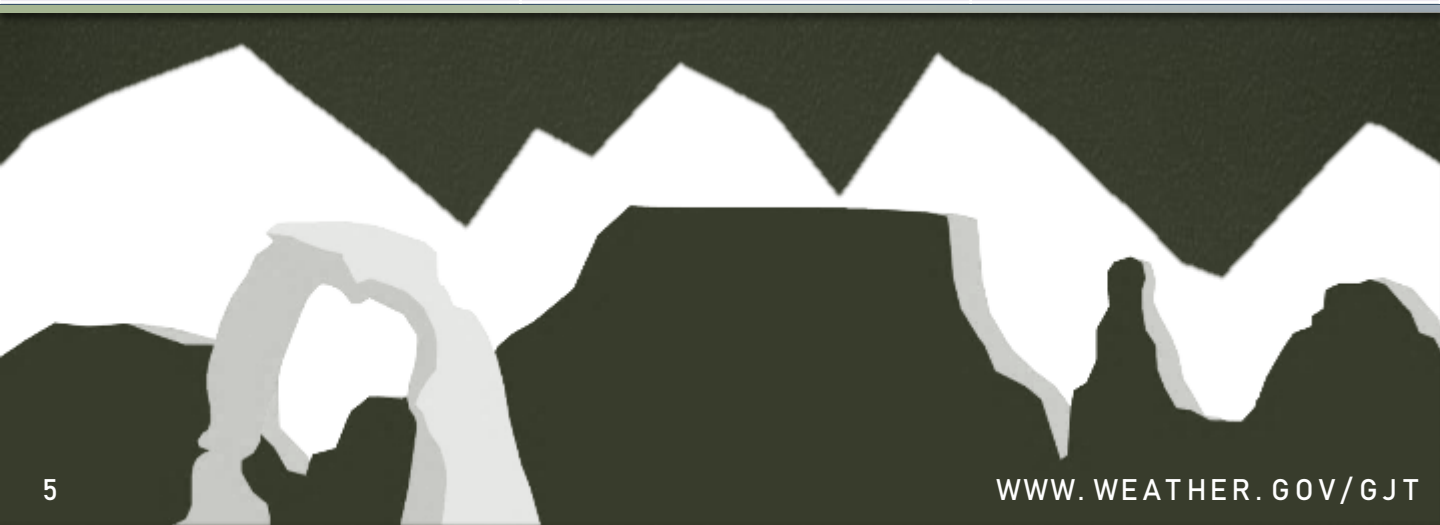


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# PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.73	-0.32
Cortez, CO	2.38	+1.31
Craig, CO	1.64	+0.73
Durango, CO	1.85	+0.57
Grand Junction, CO	0.79	+0.18
Meeker, CO	2.56	+1.49
Montrose, CO	0.35	-0.06
Rifle, CO	1.90	+1.20
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.64	+0.19
Vernal, UT	1.16	+0.57

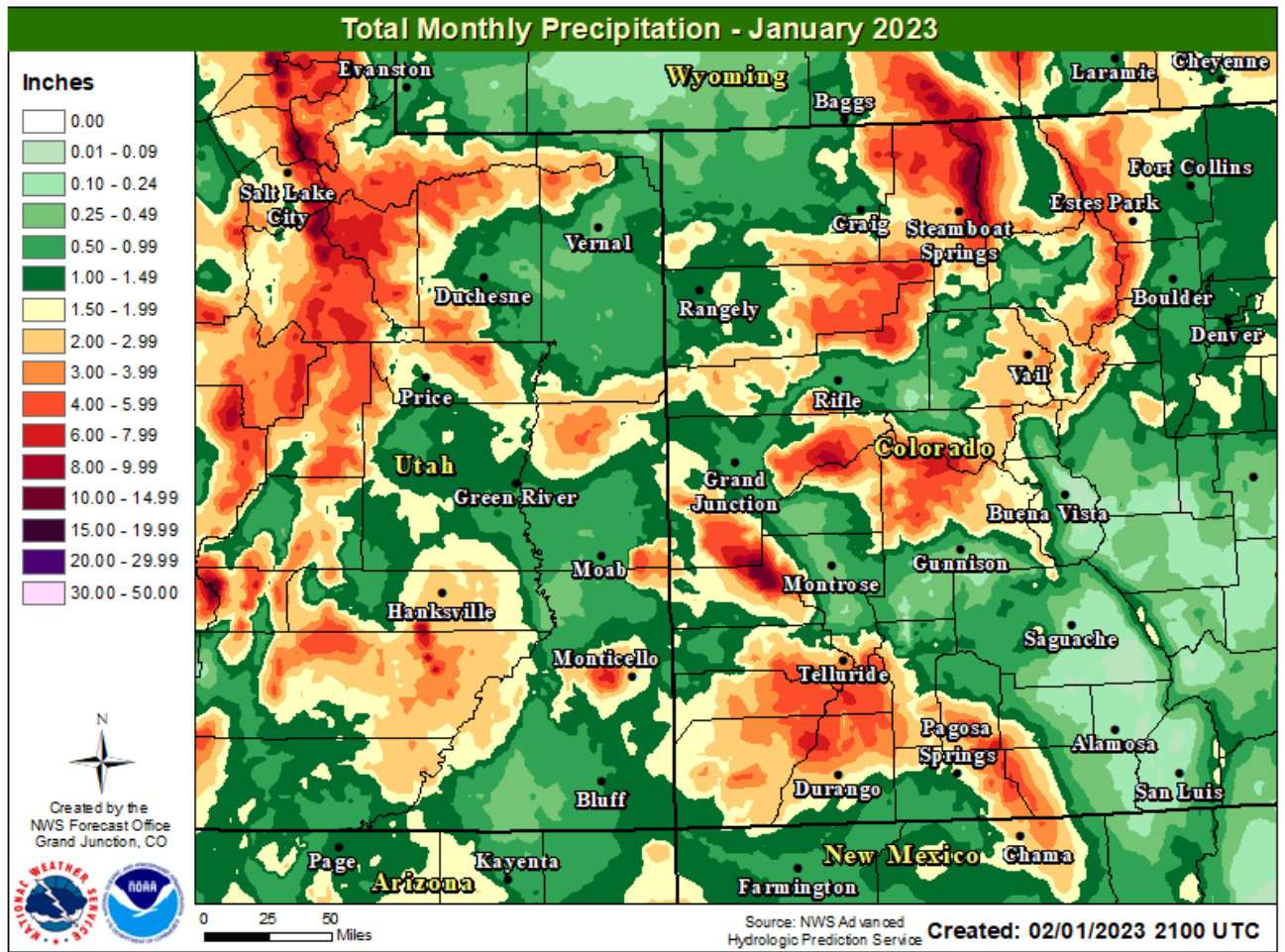


# JANUARY 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



### TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



# JANUARY 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY

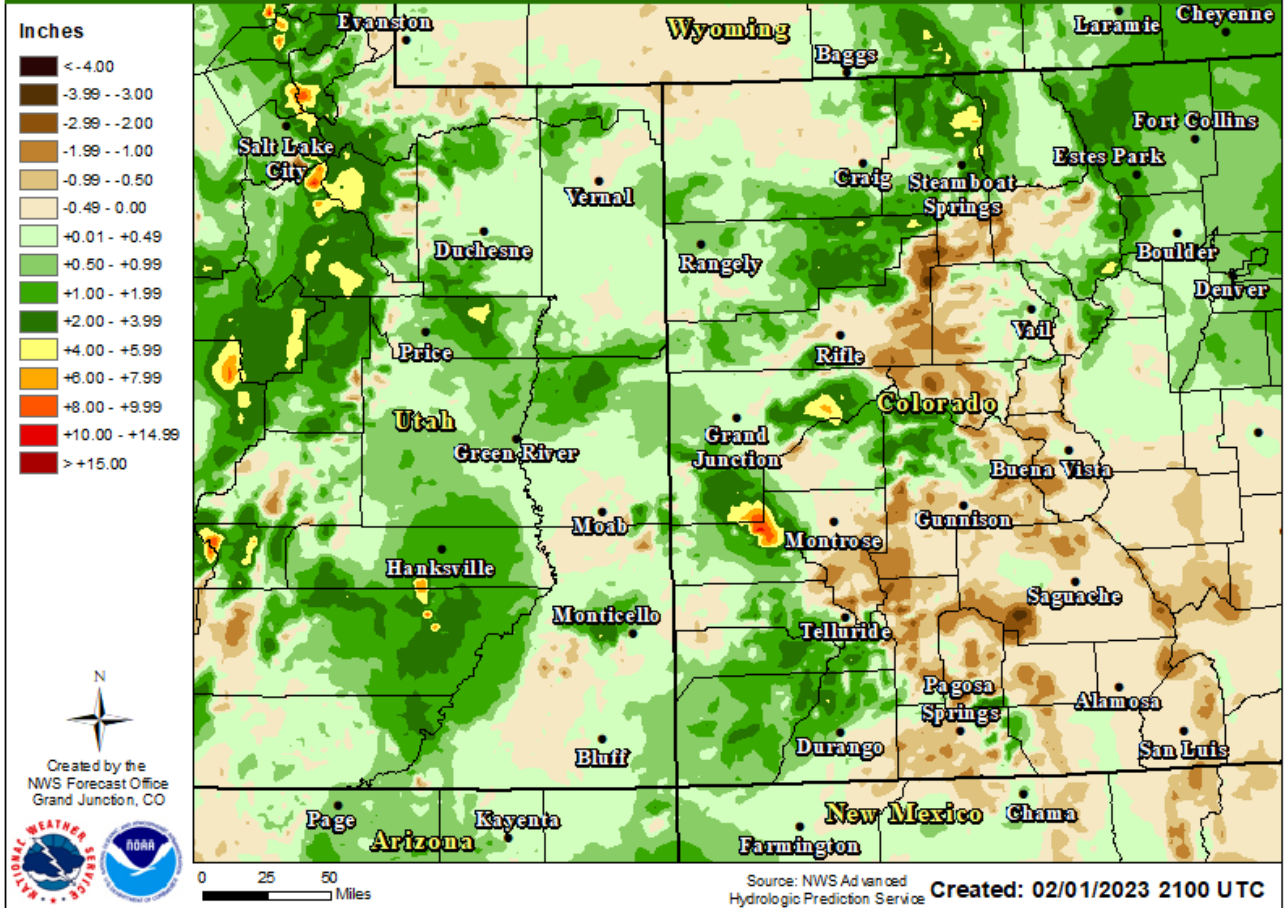


TOTAL  
MONTHLY

# PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Total Monthly Precipitation Departure From Normal - January 2023



# JANUARY 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY  
RECORDS

# R E P O R T

*A total of 1 daily record was set across the primary climate sites*

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Precipitation	0.22"	0.20", set in 1927

High Max

Low Max

Precip

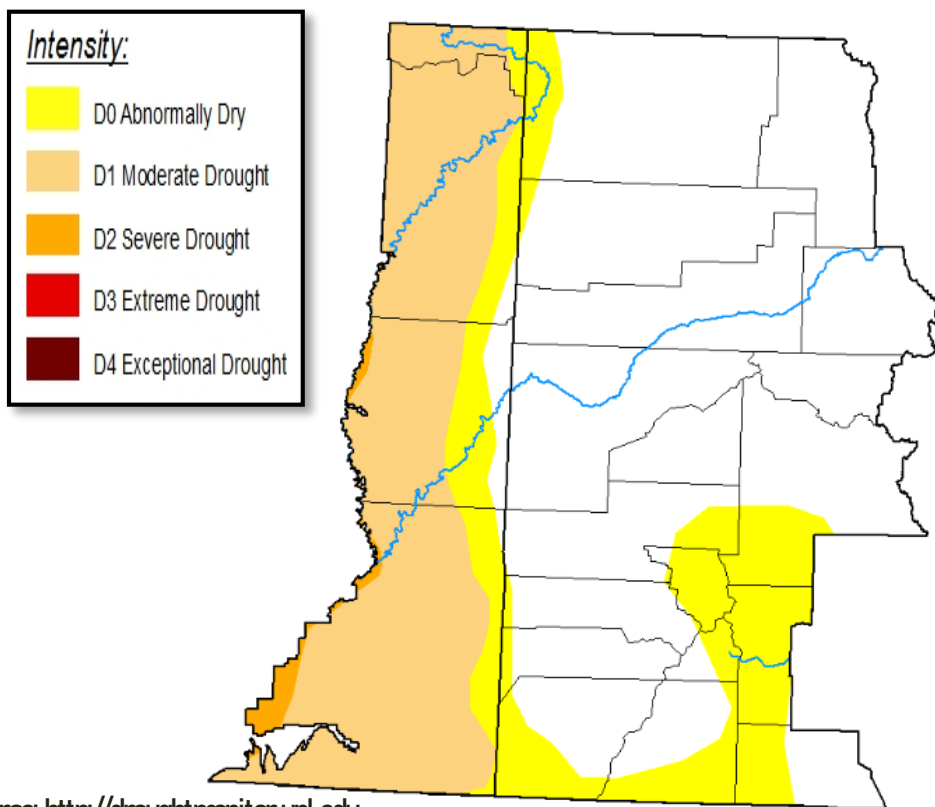
High Min

Low Min





*After many months of wondering if the drought category in eastern Utah would ever improve, it has finally happened. A few areas of Severe (D2) drought remains along the Green and Colorado Rivers in eastern Utah, otherwise, the majority of the area is in Moderate (D1) drought. A strip of Abnormally Dry (D0) is running along the Utah/Colorado border, as well as along the Colorado/New Mexico border and northward into the eastern San Juans. Other than that, all of western Colorado is currently without a drought category.*

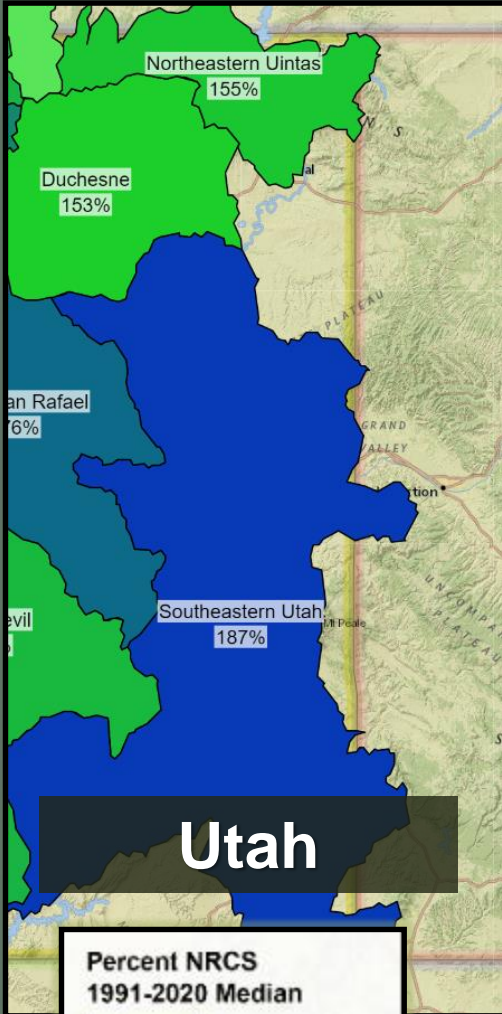


Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

# SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

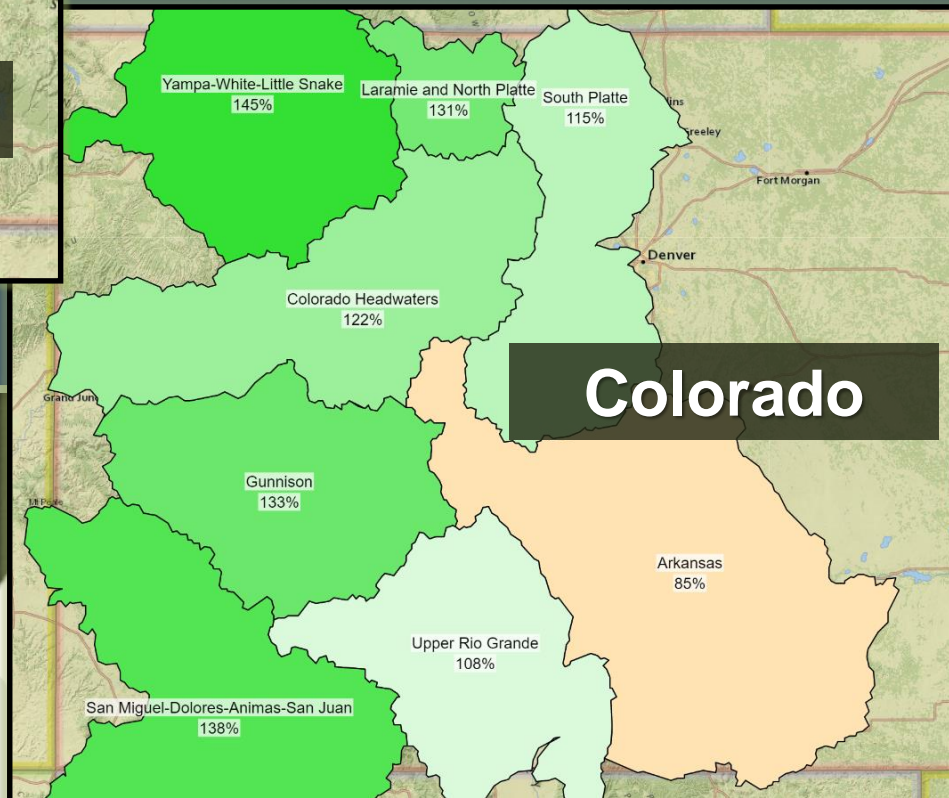
# UPDATE

AS OF February 1<sup>st</sup>

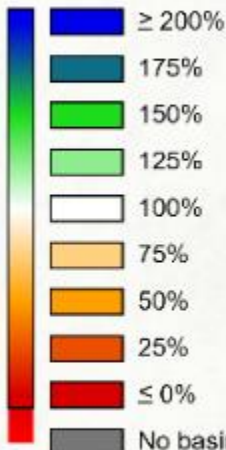


*As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, all basin snowpacks were well above normal. Values ranged from 120% of normal across the Colorado Headwaters Basin up to 145% of normal for the Yampa-White-Little Snake basin, with the remaining basins fall at 130-140% of normal.*

*The three eastern Utah basins also had well above normal snowpacks, with the Northeastern Uintas and Duchesne Basins at 150-160% of normal, and the Southeastern Utah basin at a whopping 187% of normal for this time of year.*



## Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median



Watershed Boundaries  
— State Watersheds

FEBRUARY  
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# OUTLOOK

## TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



*Current guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is leaning toward cooler than normal temperatures across all of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Eastern Utah is favored slightly more to see these cooler temperatures. As far as precipitation is concerned, guidance is indicating equal chances of above or below normal temperatures for all of Utah and Colorado.*

**Temperatures**

**Below**

**Equal  
Chances**

**Precipitation**